THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan is under preparation.

Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Social Sector Development Schemes

564. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group has recommended the adoption of monitoring and evaluation system for social sector development schemes for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the merits of the system and how it is different from present evaluation process; and

(c) the other measures to be adopted by Govt, to bring transparency in development activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Social Sector Development Schemes is in existence since First Five Year Plan. A Working Group for Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Social Sector Development Schemes in the country during the Tenth Plan was set up by the Planning Commission. This Working Group has made suggestions for improving monitoring, evaluation and for the use of information technology for this purpose.

(c) Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan has suggested the following measures, among others, to bring transparency in development activities.

(d) "Review the Official Secret Act, and supplement it by a right to Information Act. Rule 9 of the All India Services Conduct Rules and similar other Rules which prevents information being provided to an ordinary citizen should be deleted, and another rule added highlighting the intention of the Government in favour of transparency and stating that all such information which is generally provided by the Assembly/Parliament to a Member of Legislature, should also be provided to any member of the public, including NGO's."